

From: Roger Chamberlain
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 6:17pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am deeply concerned for the future of America. For the past three years, the Microsoft antitrust case has remained unresolved in the federal courts. America's economy, already declining, has been injured by the costs of the trial, both private and public. The technology industry has lagged during the proceedings because Microsoft fears the products of its innovation will be opened to what amounts to legal plagiarism. Now, when a solution seems imminent, Microsoft's competitors and the states in which they hold sway are actively seeking to undermine the proposed settlement and bring further litigation against the Microsoft Corporation. I find myself questioning the sanity of their motives.

Microsoft was indeed in violation of antitrust laws, and was, by law, required to account for its wrongs. I object, however, to the avarice that now motivates the remaining litigious parties in the suit. Microsoft's wrongs have been justly righted, and the settlement prohibits further antitrust violations. This no longer seems to be a question of fulfilling the requirements of the law, rather, it has become a rally to destroy Microsoft and give the underdogs a piece of the corporation on which to stand. The destruction of Microsoft will not suddenly enable its competitors to produce magnificent software that will blow foreign technologies away. Indeed, were Microsoft to be crippled by the results of this trial, it is quite probable that America would lose its competitive edge in the international market and, instead of driving our own technology industry, we would become driven by those who do not have our best interests at heart.

The settlement is entirely fair. It not only restricts future monopolistic behaviors on Microsoft's part, it also requires the corporation to make a variety of changes in its products and procedures that would enable its

competitors to piggyback on Microsoft technology and therefore more easily compete. For example, Microsoft has agreed to reformat upcoming versions of Windows so that the operating system will support non-Microsoft software. Competitors will also be allowed broad rights to reconfigure Windows to their own specifications. Moreover, Microsoft has agreed to provide third parties acting under the terms of the settlement with a license to applicable intellectual property rights. I do not believe any more should be required at the hands of Microsoft. I pity smaller companies who are truly unable to compete. I am sorry Microsoft was successful and they were not. But I do not believe those who made good decisions should be punished for the mistakes of others.

Microsoft was a big part of the computer boom, and a lot of companies were carried with them. Since then, Microsoft has not ceased to put money back into the economy. Antitrust laws are supposed to be in place to protect the consumer. I believe it is time to reconsider the laws and how it will affect America in a global economy. Microsoft's competitors are using the law to further their own interests; if they are successful, the consumer will suffer terribly. Foreign-based companies have a distinct advantage over American businesses because they do not play by the same rules.

It is vital that the American interest is protected, and if that means sacrificing those who are unable to take a hit and keep moving, then so be it. If weak companies are protected at the expense of the strong, the entire industry is weakened. If America continues to punish the frontrunners, we will only succeed in putting ourselves at the mercy of foreign companies. I urge you to support this settlement, and not to allow industrial narcissists to put the entire economy at risk. The future of America is at stake.

Sincerely,

Roger Chamberlain

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